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How to build smart 4-niece LIVING ROOM



# complete 4-piece MODERN LIVING

Here's an easy way to build the essential furniture in smart contemporary design—lounge chair and sofa, entertainment center with cupboard, bookshelves and TV stand, and coffee table with dropped center

OUR pieces of furniture can provide all the requirements for a living room—seating accommodations, table space, bookshelves, cupboard for entertainment equipment, TV stand and a spare bed for the overnight guest. All of these pieces have an air of inherent luxury with the restrained elegance of the best contemporary design. It is hard to believe that every one of the pieces is very easy to build, and that all the stock items are available in neighborhood hardware stores or from mail-order houses.

The entertainment center has shelves for the latest books, a compartment that will take all sizes of magazines and a cupboard with adjustable shelves that can hold refreshments or games or movie projector or other equipment. There is table area and space enough for a 21" TV set. The storage unit has a unique joint that is very strong and easy to make. Removing the bolsters from the sofa converts it into a 30" wide bed. The coffee table has a dropped center which gives it a smart

appearance. These three pieces utilize stock legs which simplify the construction considerably.

### ARMLESS LOUNGE CHAIR

In the past the chair has always been considered to be the most difficult article of furniture to build. This armless easy chair can be cut out almost entirely on the jig saw or band saw. There is not a single complicated joint in it.

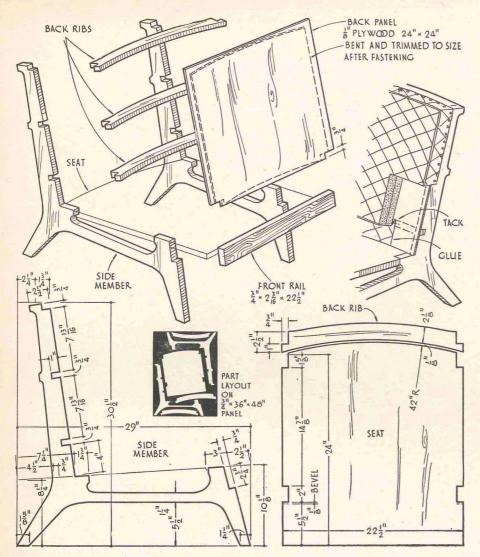
The chair is built around a standard foam-rubber cushion 22" x 24" with 3½" sides and 5½" crown. The two side members, the three back ribs and the seat can all be cut from a piece of ¾" veneer-core plywood 36" x 48". Birch, good one side, is probably the best choice. The front rail is made of solid stock and the back is made of ½" thick plywood. Two thicknesses of 1" foam rubber will be needed for the back cushion.

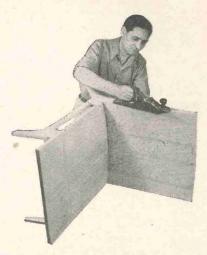
Starting at the lower left-hand corner of the 36" x 48" panel—and after checking to

make sure the two sides are square and straight—lay out the profile of the side member. Notice that the dimensions of the main reference lines—the seat, the slant of the legs and the back—are given parallel to and at right angles to the edges of the panels. After these lines have been established, the dimensions of the details are given parallel and at right angles to them because it is much more convenient to work in this manner.

After the outline of the side member is finished, cut out the blank, keeping as close to the outline as possible, particularly in those places near the other parts. The placement of the different parts on the panel are shown in the layout sketch. Cut out another blank from the opposite corner identical with the first side member; nail them together and saw out the parts on the band saw.

Make a paper pattern of the back rib and mark the outlines in the positions shown on the layout sketch. Then mark the shape of the seat. Saw out all these





Planing edges of assembled lounge chair



The back is upholstered over foam rubber

# ROOM

By ARTHUR COLLANI

parts on the band saw. Notice that there is a bevel at the front of the notch that receives the top of the front legs. This can be cut with a back saw after the band-sawing is completed.

Glue and screw the side members and the back ribs together. All of the screws used in the assembly are  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " No. 7 flathead screws. Then get out the front rail, which is made of solid maple  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $2\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $22\frac{1}{2}$ ". The top edge must be planed to be parallel with the line of the seat. Glue and screw this in place.

The inside edges of the backs of the side members should be planed to follow the curve of the back ribs. Glue and screw the seat onto the front rail and the side members to the edge of the seat. There should be ½" space between the back of the seat and the members of the back.

The back itself is cut from a piece of 1/8" plywood 24" x 24". Bend the blank around the back of the seat and mark the locations of the 3/4" deep notches on the bottom corners. Cut these out and then glue and nail the panel to the ribs and back of the seat, starting in the middle and working to the sides. Finally, nail to the side members. Screwnails, 3/4" long, should

be used to fasten the back in place. Trim the panel flush with the side members and the top rib.

Finish the chair before upholstering it. After sanding the wood thoroughly, apply the enamel undercoat and two coats of black eggshell enamel, sanding between

Cement two 1" thicknesses of foam rubber together for the back cushion and make a cover for it. The sides and top should have enough excess material to tack onto the side member and the top rib. The bottom should have 6" more than enough to cover the thickness of the foam rubber. The sketch showing the section through the bottom of the back cushion makes clear how the upholstery is attached. Begin at the bottom, doubling the material and tacking from the inside into the bottom rib. The remaining material is glued to the back panel. Now cement the two thicknesses of foam rubber to the back panel, bring the cover up over the cushion and tack on the sides and top. Cover the tacks with gimp.

The seat cushion, described previously, is covered in the usual way and laid on the plywood seat.



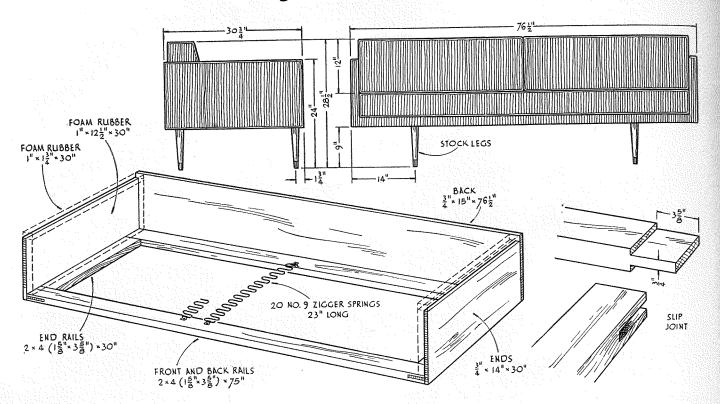
A standard crowned cushion covers the seat



The chair has good lines, front and back

CONTINUED

# living-room COUCH converts into guest bed



HIS sofa utilizes a standard 30" x 74" or 75" cot or couch mattress and two standard 12" high, 36" long wedge-type bolsters. These are all regularly available in department stores and from mail-order houses. Check the sizes for any variation that may require adjustment in the construction.

The frame is made of 2x4 stock. The actual measurements will be 15%" x 35%". Cut the front and back rails 75" long and the end rails 30" long. These parts are joined with slip joints having 34" thick tenons. Glue the parts together.

The spring is made of No. 9 zigger wire. Twenty pieces 23" long will be needed and it might be best to have these cut by the supplier as he will be able to give the ends an additional bend that will provide a secure hold on the clips. The wire should be cut so that the bends alternate as shown in the photograph. Thirty-eight helical springs also are needed to provide side tension and, of course, enough clips and nails for the wire. Space the zigger wire at equal intervals on the frame.

The back is made of 3/4" thick fir plywood 15" x 761/2". The ends are 1" lower —3/4" x 14" x 30". Fasten the ends to the frame with glue and 13/4" No. 8 flathead screws and then fasten the back to the frame and the ends similarly. The legs

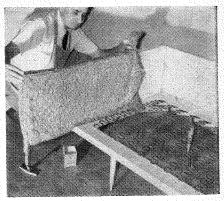
are stock items, tapered and brass tipped.

The inside faces of the ends are covered

with a piece of foam rubber 1" x 12½" x 30". Cover both the wood and the surface of the foam rubber with rubber cement. After it has dried, begin by placing a sheet of paper over the end, leaving about 1" of cemented surface exposed. Carefully attach the end of the foam rubber strip and then slowly draw out the paper, making sure that the rubber aligns with the top of the end panel and that it is firmly fastened as you go along. This operation involves a certain amount of stretching so that when the paper is entirely removed there probably will be some excess of foam







Left, after the clips have been located on the frame, the precut lengths of zigger wire are hooked in and the nails driven home in

the clips. Center, adding foam-rubber strip on top of an arm. Right, sleeves are sewn to cover arms snugly and slipped in place



rubber. This can be nibbled off with a sharp-pointed pair of scissors. The top edges of the end, including the foam rubber, should be covered by cementing on a strip of foam rubber 1" x 13/4" x 30".

The only part of the upholstery which presents any unusual problem is that of the arms. A sleeve, 1¾" wide, 16" high and 36" long, open at the bottom and back, is slipped over the arm, tacked under and over the end rail and turned around the back. If the couch is to stand out in the room, the back also should be covered with fabric, as is the front rail. The effect to be striven for is sharp, square lines and this can be accented by welting at all corners.









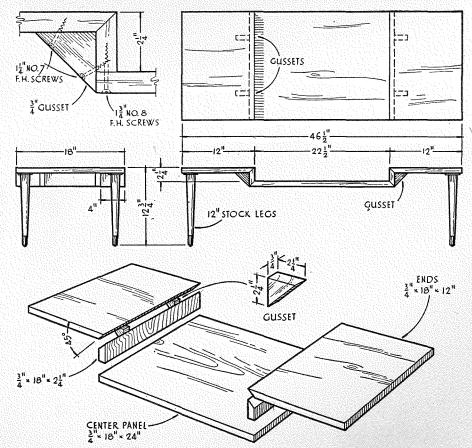
Left, the inside of the sleeve is drawn taut enough to bring the welted corner even with the arm top, then tacked to the bottom

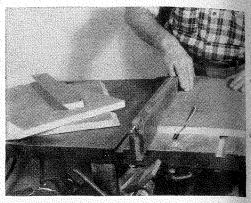
frame. Center, the outer section of the sleeve is tacked under the frame and to the back. Right, how arm looks when completed

CONTINUED

# living-room COFFEE TABLE and







Miters needed for the dropped center of the coffee table are cut on the bench saw

### SPLIT-LEVEL COFFEE TABLE

HE parts for the top of this coffee table can be cut from several different combinations of small panels which are available from local suppliers or mail-order houses. One 24" x 48" or two 24" x 24" panels will do it, but probably the best combination is one 24" x 24" and one 18" x 36". This last will permit cutting the parts so that the grain of the wood flows lengthwise of the table on all surfaces. The table shown here was made of 3/4" walnut and the panels were good one side with lumber core. If another wood is desired, take into consideration the availability of matching veneer strips for the edges as these may not be available in all woods.

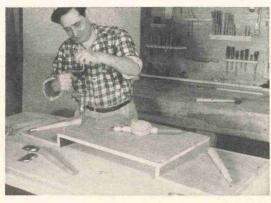
The inner edges of the two 12" x 18" end members and the upper edges of the two vertical 2¼" x 18" members are beveled at 45°. This operation can be performed with the tilted arbor on the bench saw as shown in a photograph. Be sure that the walnut veneer is on the long face in both cases. The joint between the vertical members and the 18" x 24" center panel is a butt joint. Cut four ¾" x 2½" x 2½" triangular gussets to reinforce the step-down.

Fasten the vertical members to the end panels with glue and eight-penny finishing nails, nailing in both directions. Set the nailheads and cover them with wood composition. Then fasten the center panel to the vertical members with glue and four 134" No. 8 flathead wood screws. The gussets are set back 4" so that they cannot be seen and fastened with glue and 11/4" No. 7 flathead screws. In applying the veneer strips to the edges, notice that the joining at the step-down does not follow the actual joining of the members but is mitered in both cases. Use either white polyvinyl liquid glue or contact cement for attaching the veneer.

The 12" long legs are stock parts, brass tipped. They should be located as close to the corners as possible without showing the mounting plates.

### **ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**







Left, the mitered pieces may be held for nailing in a pictureframe vise, if available. Center, the bottom of the dropped sec-

tion is fastened with screws and, of course, all joints are glued. Right, brass-tipped stock legs are attached with mounting plates

### ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

ITH the exception of the door and back, the parts for the shelves and cupboard can be cut from two 8-ft. lengths of 1x12 walnut. This should be dressed to 3/4" x 111/2". The top, bottom and partition will come out of one piece

while the shelves and ends will come out of the other. The shelves are rectangles  $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x 20" and the partition is  $10\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $24\frac{1}{2}$ ". The top and bottom are both  $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $35\frac{1}{2}$ " with  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x  $53\frac{1}{4}$ " notches cut on the back of the ends. These notches can be cut on the bench saw. Use a stop as shown in a photograph for making the  $53\frac{1}{4}$ " cut. (Continued on page 62)

The entertainment center is a low table with a combination cupboard and bookcase. The door is shown open above to reveal the Peg-Board that forms the back of the entire unit. There is space at the right of the bookshelves for a modern television set. Note that the wooden legs match those of the coffee table





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### living-room

# **Entertainment Center**

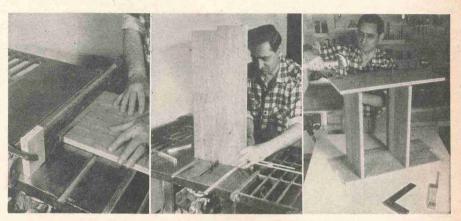
(Continued from page 25)

The top also has a notch 3/4" x 143/4" on the front edge.

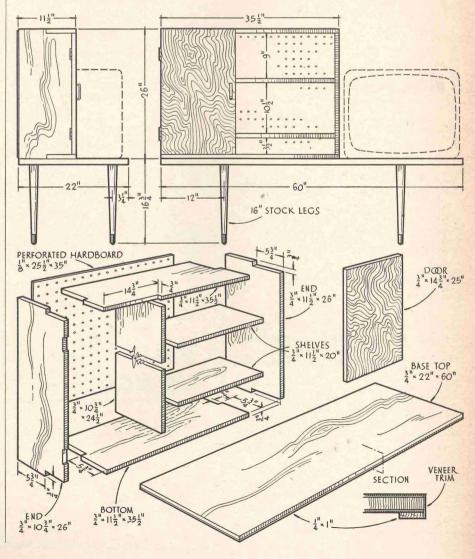
One end member is 111/2" x 26" while the other is 103/4" wide x 26". Notches are cut in the front corners on top and bottom

to engage those cut in the top and bottom. Those on the narrow end will be 3/4" less than those on the wide end.

The assembly is begun by nailing the wide end and the partition to the shelves as



Left, a stop block is used when cutting the lap joints in the side members. the notch is completed with cut-off guide and stop rod. Right, nailing the shelves



shown in a photograph. The shelves extend 34" beyond the partition at the front. Next, nail the top to the partition and glue and nail the top to the end. Use tenpenny finishing nails on all the joints. The narrow end and the bottom follow.



There is room for a TV set as large as 21". Games may be kept in the cabinet



The bottom is set in place last and fastened like the rest with finishing nails

The door is of plywood 3/4" x 143/4" x 25". Choose a fancy-figured panel or glue your own veneer on the door panel for best effect. Use two narrow butt hinges to fasten the door to the carcase. These should be 1116" wide when open, with 2" joint length (Stanley 800). Inset both leaves in the edge of the carcase and fasten the hinge directly to the back face of the door. The edges of the door should be covered with strip veneer attached with white polyvinyl liquid glue or contact cement. The back of the carcase is covered with 1/8" thick perforated hardboard 251/2" x 35", painted white. This size permits 1/4" setback all around so that rabbeting is not necessary. Finishing is simpler if done before the back is attached.

The base top is of plywood 3/4" x 22" x 60". Glue a strip 1/4" x 1" all around the

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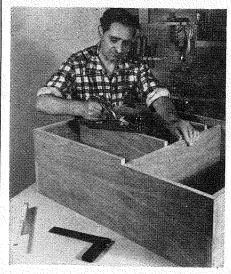
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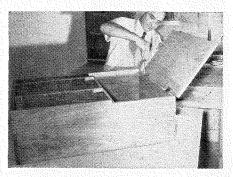
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underside, mitering the corners. The standard veneer trim is 1" wide-just enough to cover this edge if carefully applied. This 1" thickness gives a much more substantial appearance than that of the plywood alone. The legs are stock legs, 16" or 17" high, tapered and with brass tips. The legs are located 12" from the ends and 31/4" from the front and back edges of the base top.



Dressing the front edges. Note how the top is notched out to allow for the door



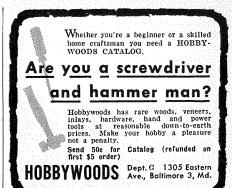
Hinges are fastened with flathead screws after gains have been cut into the edge of the end member. The depth of gains is equal to thickness of the closed hinges



Attaching the stock legs to the table

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